



March / April 2019

Don't Stop Believin' in the HAC

Since the last time we met, HAC House has been rockin' with activity almost seven days a week.

Rock of Ages has been in full swing, rehearsing three, four, sometimes five days a week. The energy pumping through the walls of HAC House has been electric, from the band, the cast and the crew. It is shaping up to be one monster production. There is so much energy on the stage; you cannot help but tap your feet and sing along to the awesome 80s anthems. The standard of performance is fantastic. There is so much talent on display.



Everyone knows I preach a team mantra, and hate singling people out. But I must mention Chris Versteegen. Since day one, his energy at rehearsals has been amazing. He has set a standard for the rest of us to follow. Full credit to him, not to mention everything else he has been doing off-stage. Well done Chris.

Elle Woods' "snaps" go out to Erin Boutcher and her production team for the work they have been doing. There has been a great vibe amongst the group, and everyone is working together in all facets of the production. Erin has led from the front, managing everything that a director must control. Everyone else has been following her lead. From the sets, to costumes, to vocals, to dancing and the rocking band. Everyone seems to be living and breathing Erin's vision, setting up what is sure to be another monster HAC production.

I urge all HAC members and lovers of musical theatre to round up their family, friends, work mates, colleagues and partners and get along to the Horsham Town Hall Theatre in May 2019 to witness this production, and to support everyone who has put so much in to creating this musical. It is different to what HAC has done before which is great. Each show deserves a full house. Let's make it happen.

-Simon Dandy

Secretary's Scribbles

With *Rock of Ages* about to hit the stage, the cast, crew and band are running full tilt, with up to five rehearsals a week. All the last-minute items are being ticked off the innumerable lists and everyone is putting in that extra effort to create the best possible show. It is hard work, and that is just what the audience will see when they come to be blown away by the amazing show that *Rock of Ages* will be. When you add in the number of hours that countless people have spent on gaining sponsorship, liaising with media, the performance space, searching and sourcing costumes, working and reworking character and choreography in preparation for the rehearsals, you realise it takes thousands of people hours to put a show on like this. And it is all volunteer.



While we are all putting in to this, people continue to work, play sport, make time for family and any other commitments that they may have. Yes, it seems we are a crazy bunch. And yet we turn up for it, rehearsal after rehearsal, emails, meetings and phone calls. We navigate the personal and interpersonal challenges of putting on a show, we create a second family, along with all the challenges and rewards that come with being a type of family.

Continued...

Continued...

We laugh and even cry together, work on little sleep, argue, make up, and have all sorts of fun together. And when we are exhausted and wondering why we do this, the pure joy of performing with an incredible bunch of people, and knowing that we have done the best we can do, that we have challenged ourselves and met those challenge, answers all our questions.

Soon another team of people will have ended the journey that is *Rock of Ages* and life will change, Some will have a break, some will roll right on into the next show. There will never be an experience quite like this one, and the next show will be just as unique. So team, enjoy your time together as part of *Rock of Ages*; it is an incredible one that will not be repeated. All of you out there, come and join us in theatre to experience the awesomeness this show has been. And get ready for the ongoing journey that HAC is on - there is so much to be excited about.

-Faye Johns

Wimmera Music Eisteddfod

Following a short break in 2018, the Wimmera Music Eisteddfod will again welcome performers of all ages to the Horsham stage in July 2019. With the closure of the Horsham Music Academy and the future of Wesley Performing Arts Centre unknown, it is vital that the event support student and amateur musicians into the future.

The Eisteddfod will consist of 52 sections presented at Horsham Town Hall over a three-day period (26 – 28 July), and we believe roughly 200 local musicians will compete for performance opportunity and skill-building across many vocal and instrumental specialties.

The HAC is a proud supporter of the Wimmera Music Eisteddfod, providing sponsorship for the Alex Rathgeber Vocal Championship event. This section invites experienced vocal students and performers to present a three-piece program for judging in the name of Alex Rathgeber, patron of the Eisteddfod and friend of the HAC.



If you would like to perform in the Eisteddfod, please look up how to enter via stardom.com.au. You do not have to be under the supervision of a local teacher to enter the Eisteddfod. We encourage everyone to use this opportunity to hone their performance skills and sing (or play!) in front of a supportive audience.

The Eisteddfod is currently looking for sponsorship from local businesses and individuals as well as volunteers to help us coordinate backstage at the event. If you have any interest in sponsorship or volunteering, please reach out to Maddi Ostapiw via text on 0437 244 468, or through Facebook.

Please follow our Facebook page **Wimmera Music Eisteddfod**) to stay up-to-date with the competition, and consider coming along to view all the wonderful talent Horsham and surrounds has to offer.

-Maddi Ostapiw

Review of *Lord of The Flies*



The HAC would like to congratulate the talented young performers who recently took part in Kick Up the Artz's production of *Lord of the Flies*. It was fantastic to see HAC members and new faces on the stage, with young people among the strongest performers in the Wimmera.

A mammoth undertaking for youth performers, the production was full of high energy drama, with strong acting ability needed to sustain the intense, animalistic nature of many characters. It was clear that many young people on the stage had studied *Lord of the Flies* beyond their years and had begun to confront some of the existential themes within the show, and a highlight of the performance was seeing how the cast bonded between the acts to rid themselves of the violence they had portrayed on-stage.

Larissa Riddell and Amy Anselmi should be commended for their commitment to giving young people the opportunity to perform. *Lord of the Flies* was a wonderful example of how simple staging and imaginative production elements can avoid over-complicating the narrative of a minimalist story and focus audience attention on the motivation of characters.

Please make sure to further support young performers in our town by seeing future performances by Kick Up the Artz.

-Maddi Ostapiw



HAC Trivia Night

After a successful trivia night during last year's production of *Joseph*, the HAC Social Committee arranged the follow-up event for March 2019. May's *Rock of Ages* presented the perfect theme of 80s fashion, 80s music and 80s question rounds. With more than 60 participants battling it out for intelligence supremacy, it was clear from the outset that some teams were serious about knowledge and some teams were serious about enjoying the evening. Three teams broke away towards the business end of the night, and ultimately the final round decided first, second and third. Enormous congratulations go to 'Insert 80s pun here' who stepped away with the winning score. HAC would like to thank the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church for providing the venue, our fantastic sponsors for their generous donations, and the supportive community for attending the event.

-Chris Versteegen

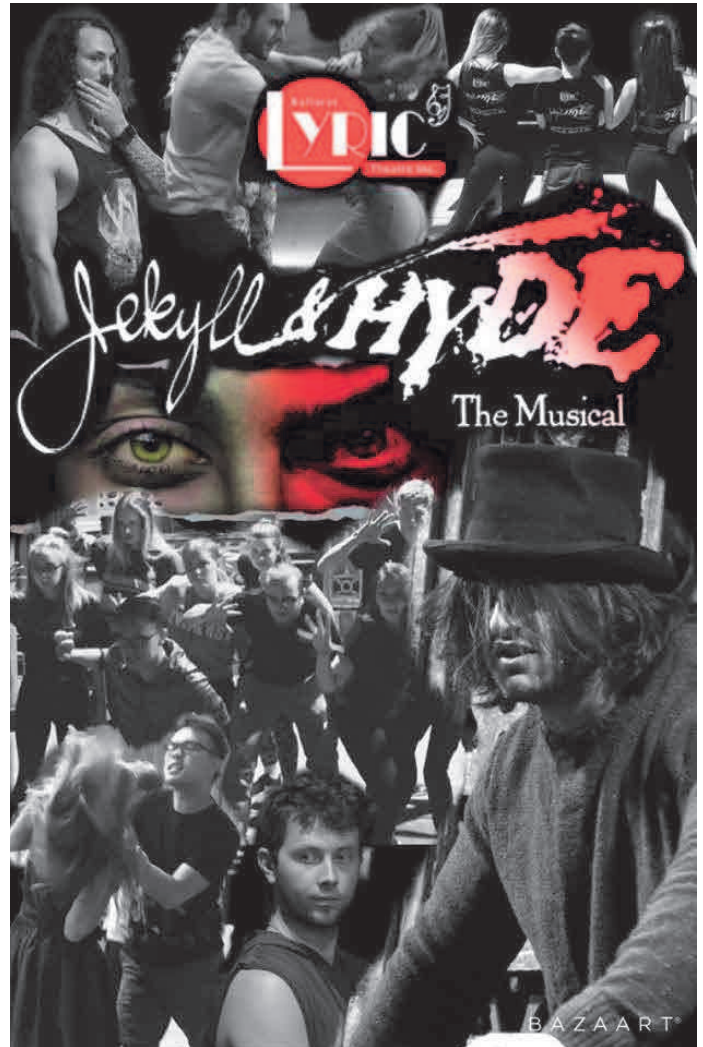


Review of Ballarat Lyric Theatre Society's *Jekyll & Hyde*



Jekyll & Hyde is a challenging musical to put on, both professionally and by amateur organisations. Two previous professional incarnations of the show never made it to the stage in Australia over the last twenty years, because of financial backing issues. The dark, gothic subject matter and the soaring opera/rock sound track has given it a cult following, but sometimes the story has had difficulties translating to the stage. Ballarat Lyric took on the challenge of taking the dramatic subject matter and bringing in to audiences in Ballarat, creating powerful moments and wonderful harmonies.

The director brought to the audience an unflinching view of the underside of Jekyll's London, with the character's darker side put on full display. The Board of Governors were strongly portrayed in all their various incarnations of evil, with very clever casting and character portrayal. Spider, the proprietor of the whorehouse The Red Rat, created a direct sense of violence and menace. The cast members portraying these roles were fully committed to creating these roles and did not shy away from showing the seedy side of human nature. Dylan Shalless, who is about to hit the stage with HAC as Drew in *Rock of Ages*, was particularly strong in his dual natures of Jekyll and Hyde struggling for dominance.



The character of Lucy was also portrayed with great skill, creating a dynamic picture of a woman who is trapped by her life, but also comfortable because she knows where she stands in it; longing for something more, aware of the danger, but also the attraction that she has to Jekyll in both of his incarnations.

The ensemble was very strong vocally, with harmonies sitting solidly, and characters being well portrayed in their scenes. The choreography of moving the ensemble on and off was tight and very smooth, moving seamlessly through their continuous movement during the big scenes. They created the rich and full sound that *Jekyll and Hyde* has, and was fantastic to hear, well-matched by a tight and professional-sounding orchestra. The lighting design was also very well done, with precise and clean lighting changes, aiding in the creation of the gothic atmosphere of the story. The set – a rotating and unfurling two storey tower - allowed smooth transitions between scenes, with much credit going to the crew who operated the set. It was a job very well done.

Congratulations to Ballarat Lyric Theatre on their season of *Jekyll and Hyde*.

-Faye Johns

Thoughts from New HAC Members

Every production attracts new people to the HAC. We are blessed to be surrounded by so many talented people, hailing from all walks of life. *Rock of Ages* is no different. In fact, the number of new members is comparatively high. The rehearsal period has forged a strong, united, creative team which will lead to the stage. Here are some thoughts from those new HAC members of their journey so far.

-Simon Dandy



Tahli Burford (Venus Club Girl)

I am so excited to be a part of my first ever HAC show, *Rock of Ages*. It has been an amazing experience and I'm so excited for the show. From the first rehearsal I have felt super welcomed to the HAC family. Everyone is super friendly and supportive with everything whether it's to do with the show or not, and after spending so much time with everyone they all become like family. I always look forward to rehearsals and catching up with everyone. I can't wait for the show and I am excited to hopefully be part of many more HAC shows.



Rachel Da Graca Costa (Sherrie)

It has been a great experience working with HAC. Having worked with many companies in Adelaide, it's fantastic to see similarities and such a high standard of professionalism and dedication to the company. I've been very impressed with my experience so far and I'm looking forward to putting it all together, and for Horsham to recognise all the hard work that goes on behind the scenes.



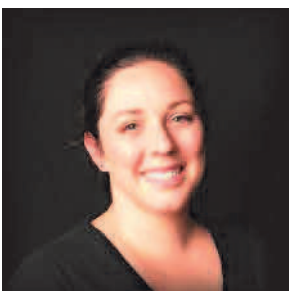
Siobhan Delaney (Protestor)

When I tried out for *Rock of Ages* I never dreamed I'd actually get a part. There were so many talented people there and I had never auditioned before. I kept going and had so much fun. When it was time for rehearsals to start I was nervous as a few people knew each other already. However, they all made me feel so welcome, and I have made some good friends. The cast and crew put so much work into their parts and that's contagious. I am so glad I auditioned and would definitely do it all again.



Benji Dixon (Denis Dupree)

Hi, I'm Benji. I'm originally from Mt Maunganui Beach NZ. I've been working in Australia for eight years now. For most of that time up at Mt Buller, but for the past five years I have worked the summers in Horsham. I got introduced to theatre at a very early age through my father, watching his shows from the side of the stage at age 4. I've known of the HAC for some time, but never really had a chance to get involved due to work commitments and being a bit of a gypsy. But this year, finally! I'm stoked to be a part of *Rock of Ages* and the HAC. They are an awesome, friendly, talented group of people to work with. And I hope you come out to see the show.



Zoe Hanson (Protestor)

Performing in *Rock of Ages* is my first time as a member of HAC. I've absolutely loved the experience! Everyone has been so friendly and welcoming - it's like a big family. Auditioning and being a part of this production has been a huge step out of my comfort zone. But the people at HAC have made it an easier time than what I thought it would have been. I'm blown away by the support I've received.



Darcy Hogan (Club DJ)

If someone had said to me last year that I would be involved in a HAC show I would have probably laughed at them. They never seemed to interest me, until I decided to give my school show last year a go. I now feel so stupid and feel like I have missed out on so much fun, because this experience so far has been one of the best things I have ever decided to do. The people involved in the show are amazing and have welcomed me in the HAC family with open arms. Can't wait to rock it out on stage with everyone!



Josh Lloyd (Joey Primo)

As a new arrival, not only to HAC but also to the Wimmera, I have been overwhelmed by the welcoming nature of the HAC community. In the 'digital world' we can sometimes become removed and disconnected from one another; however, community theatre such as HAC allows individuals and groups to 'disconnect in order to reconnect' with one another. HAC gives those in the Horsham and surrounding areas the ability to come together to share and develop performing art skills of song, dance and acting. Nevertheless, the real stars of every show are those who do lighting and sound, hair and makeup, costume and set construction. These pivotal skills can also be further developed by engaging with HAC. As a volunteer with HAC one does build a sense of pride and solidarity within the community, it allows for socialising with new people and greater connection with local business as they continue to support the many shows that we develop. Above all others, HAC gives the opportunity to encourage new talent and be part of the rich story-telling tradition that is at the core of our nation.



Scott Robinson (Protestor)

Rock of Ages is my first show with HAC and I can already say it won't be the last show I audition for. I remember my audition day - I was so nervous, singing before a panel of people I didn't know! Each member of the council made me feel welcomed and showed such patience, kindness, and enthusiasm. Since then, it hasn't taken long for me to make friends by bonding over a shared passion for the performing arts! HAC has helped me realise I have talent where I didn't believe I had any, and for that I am grateful!



Dylan Shalless (Drew)

As an out-of-towner who has been a part of community theatre for 18 years, I would love to thank HAC for the opportunity to be involved in *Rock of Ages*. I first became acquainted with HAC when I came up to see Erin Boutcher and Chris Versteegen, who I had worked with in Ballarat, in *RENT*. I was blown away by the calibre of show and talent in Horsham and when I was asked if I would be interested in auditioning for *Rock of Ages*, I jumped at the opportunity. HAC has been so welcoming and I truly have enjoyed every rockin' second (except perhaps the tri-weekly 400km round trips).



Shannon Waterworth (Arsenal – Guitarist)

After being introduced to the HAC through family and friends, I was instantly drawn into the vibe and atmosphere of everyone involved. With the standard and professionalism of each production, the decision was made easy for me to audition when I heard *Rock of Ages* was the next HAC show. Being part of this team has given me the opportunity to make new friends and meet some super talented people. It has given me the confidence to challenge myself with the ability to perform and to be involved with an amazing group of people at such a high standard.

MTGV AGM & 2019 Committee

The Music Theatre Guild of Victoria (MTGV) annual general meeting was held on 16 March 2019 at the Williamstown Town Hall. It was very well-attended by member theatre companies throughout Victoria. We did not attend the AGM, however the HAC committee submitted a proxy vote after various discussions with MTGV committee members. The HAC is proud to be an ongoing member of the MTGV. We receive great support from the MTGV, evidenced by the number of judges that travel to see and assess our shows. The new MTGV committee for 2019 is as follows.

President: Ang Cuy

Vice President: Brett Wingfield

Secretary: Mark Spencer

Treasurer: Carole Cuthbertson

General Committee: Fran Boyd, Damien Calvert, Anne Dewar, Elly Foster, Derek Ingles, Karl McNamara, Leah Osburn and Dot Parker



-Simon Dandy

Valued Sponsors & Partners

Each year, the HAC is blown away by the support we receive from within the community. Many local businesses and organisations come on board, offering financial and/or in-kind support to the HAC. We are so indebted to them. Producing two major productions each year is a costly exercise, with no guarantee of audience numbers. The support we receive is vital to assist the HAC to continue to provide the high level of theatre we are known for. Most importantly, bringing people together from all walks of life and allowing them to pursue their passion in the performing arts. The list below represents those that have supported our upcoming production of "Rock Of Ages". We thank them bottom of our hearts and hope to continue to build ongoing relationships for many years to come.

Ace Radio Network	Horsham Physiotherapy	Moe's Mexican Bar & Grill
Axis Employment	Horsham Town Hall	Morrow Motor Group
Bevanart Signs & Graphics	Horsham Toyota	Murra Warra Wind Farm
Bonnie & Clyde's Pizzeria	Horsham Truck Company	Richard Morris Memorial Scholarship
Café Chickpea	Horsham Veterinary Hospital	Shelton & Lane Stationery
Capitis Accounting Solutions	I Talk Travel Horsham	SMS Rural
D'Coco Hair Studio	Kouture By Kaz	St Brigid's College
Freddy's Fingers & Feet	Lister House Clinic	Telstra Shop
Horsham Auto Wreckers	Mackays Leading Edge Jewellers	Thai Basil
Horsham College	Maddi Ostapiw Singing School	Thomas Audio & Lighting
Horsham Concrete Company	Margaret & Alan Woodford	Westlander Best Motel Horsham
Horsham Florist	McDonalds Horsham	Wimmera Mail Times
Horsham Paint Right	Mellor Monumental	Your Family Vet

-Simon Dandy



Horsham Arts
Council Inc.

MAMMA MIA!

COMING OCTOBER 2019

Information night

Sunday 26 May, 5pm

HAC House, 19 Hamilton Road Horsham

Director: Maddi Ostapiw Assistant Director: Loucas Vettos

For any further information email
Maddi Ostapiw at mostapiw@gmail.com

horshamartscouncil.com

Executive Committee

President

Simon Dandy

Secretary

Faye Johns

Vice President

Ken Warrick

Treasurer

Colin Kreymborg

General Committee

Debbie Boutcher

Erin Boutcher

Jessica Wilson

Nick Wilson

Jack Janetzki

Loucas Vettos

Belinda Elliot

Maddi Ostapiw



Horsham Arts Council Inc.

PO Box 370

Horsham, VIC 3402

Hamilton Rd / Henty Hwy

Horsham Vic, 3400

E-mail: info@horshamartscouncil.com

Web: www.horshamartscouncil.com

Dandy moments in Dando's car

You know you're a theatre tragic when you glance at your speedo and get excited seeing this!



HAC Life Members

Ritchie Hobbs* (1972)	Shirley Mewett (1993)	Ken Bradshaw (2002)	Sandy Wills (2007)	Don Mitchell (2012)
Ron Shepherd* (1976)	Avis Denholm (1999)	Dawn Deale (2005)	Debbie Boutcher (2010)	Jenny Rafter (2012)
Colin Mills (1987)	Jan Morris (2001)	Laurie Deale* (2005)	Gary (Jack) Janetzki (2010)	Ronnie Thomas (2016)
Barbara Mills (1987)	Richard Morris* (2001)	Stuart Johns (2007)	Lynne McKenzie (2010)	Libby Brennan (2016)
Ona Whiteside* (1993)	Gerry Nicholls (2001)			

HAC Meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday of every month.

All members are welcome to attend.

Next meeting is 7:30pm, 08/05/2019

Newsletter Team

Please forward any information for future newsletters to the team via ladlow@internode.on.net

or message **Cherie Ladlow** on **0458 747 236**

Until next time...

Peace out, from your friendly neighborhood newsletter team,

Cherie Ladlow, Lynley Macdonald Beau Ladlow

MEMBERSHIP FORM

2019

Membership year of Horsham Arts Council Inc. extends from 1st January to 31st December.

Join now and support performing arts in the Wimmera and keep in touch with what is happening throughout the year through our newsletter.

Membership fees:
\$50 for a single
\$100 for a family

Name:		
Home Address:		
Postal Address:		
Phone:		
Mobile:		
Email:		
I am happy to receive my newsletter by email	Yes	No

Please complete and return with your payment to:
HAC Membership
PO Box 370
Horsham, VIC 3402

If you would like to pay your membership via Direct Deposit, details are:
BSB: 013-665 Account No: 3341 03608
Please put your SURNAME as the reference